IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U	J.S. Patent Application of)
KUROKAWA et al.		{
Application Number: To be Assigned		{
Filed:	Concurrently Herewith)
For:	STORAGE SYSTEM WITH A DATA SORT FUNCTION)
Atty Docket No. WILL 0003		

Honorable Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REQUEST FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119 AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Sir:

In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of December 25, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese Patent Application 2003-428718.

A certified copy of Japanese Patent Application 2003-428718 will be submitted upon receipt from Applicant. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley P. Fisher

Registration Number 24,344

Juan Carlos A. Marqu

Registration Number 34,072

REED SMITH LLP

3110 Fairview Park Drive Suite 1400 Falls Church, Virginia 22042 (703) 641-4200

January 28, 2004